



## Agriculture

A western syndicate has leased 400,000 square miles of Russian territory for a period of 60 years. The same syndicate reports it has made arrangements for the purchase in America of \$3,000,000,000 worth of goods in the next three years.

A committee report made recently to the thirty-second annual convention of the National Association of Railway and Utilities Commissioners declared that public ownership and operation of the railroads has failed wherever it has been properly tested. It stated that private ownership and operation with public regulation was the only just and honest manner of conducting the public utility business of this country.

The danger of the pink bollworm crossing from Old Mexico into the United States is alarming the commercial interests and cotton growers of Texas. The infected part of Old Mexico is the rich Laguna district, a section of territory on the boundary line of the states of Durango and Coahuila containing 2,000 square miles in area, entirely surrounded by mountain ranges and but 250 miles from the Texas border. This section of Mexico is one of the most fertile farming regions in the world, the chief crop being cotton. Almost the only known way to wipe out the pest is to stop planting cotton for several years.

The president of Guatemala has undertaken to interest foreign capital in the development of more than 15,000 square miles of territory in Guatemala. A new department of agriculture with a minister in his cabinet has been created by the president.

A pool to assist in the financing of the live stock industry of the country is being formed by leading bankers of Chicago. The capitalization will be \$30,000,000.

William B. Thompson, president of the Louisiana division of the American Cotton Association, has advised cotton producers to leave all low grades in the field to be eaten by cattle or plowed under and to take steps "to make it impossible during the coming season to produce more than one-half the present crop."

American business relations with South America have been practically paralyzed by the derangements of the exchanges.

The advance figures of the Census of Manufacturers support a belief that the total value of the manufactured products of the United States for the year 1919 will exceed \$60,000,000,000—half the manufactured production of the world.

A pneumatic planer has been developed which displaces six or eight men on ship and car building.

A department has been established in the Bureau of Chemistry to assist industrial and commercial concerns to apply the valuable processes and discoveries made each year by government chemists.

A large number of the country's colleges are about to install courses in industrial management. Business concerns will raise \$100,000 to finance the movement.

The parcel post department in Omaha is to be completely motorized with a fleet of 50 trucks serving 20 zones. Department stores expect to take advantage of this service and deliver by parcel post.

Huston Thompson, member of the Federal Trade Commission, succeeds Victor Murdock as chairman of that body.

Morgan County, Alabama, farmers have saved about \$10 a ton by mixing their own fertilizer under the direction of the county agent. Three hundred farmers joined the movement and bought a carload of ground limestone.

Bermuda bans automobiles but has decided to permit the importation of small tractors because of the prohibitive cost of horse power on the farms.

The House Immigration Committee is planning to introduce a bill providing almost airtight restrictions on immigration.

# The Three Arts

## Manufacture



Forty-six states of the Union, reports the Bureau of Public Roads, expended \$400,000,000 on rural roads and bridges during 1919. This expenditure is one-third greater than that of 1918.

The average total authorized capital of new enterprises formed in the United States prior to 1919 was approximately \$2,000,000,000 a year. The total authorized capital of enterprises launched during 1919 amounted to \$12,677,000,000 and the capital issues of 1920 have thus far exceeded those of 1919. The change in money values is responsible for much of the increase.

Sawmills, once very plentiful in Maine, have almost disappeared. Only three remain between Bath and Augusta. The death of the industry is due to the fact that pulp companies have bought up most of the spruce.

Premier Lloyd George announces that Great Britain will begin to trade openly with Soviet Russia as soon as it is certain that Russia will carry out its agreement relative to returning British prisoners.

Secretary of Agriculture E. T. Meredith in a Detroit speech strongly opposed the plan of Secretary of the Treasury Houston to increase taxes on automobile manufacture and use. Mr. Houston was Mr. Meredith's predecessor as head of the Agriculture Department.

Fifty-four miles of railway in the Temiskaming region, opening up to northern transportation a fertile section of the province of Quebec, is shortly to be constructed by the Canadian Pacific Railway. Contract between the company and the Quebec Government was signed during the week.

A decrease of three per cent in retail food prices in October throughout the United States was noted in statistics on the cost of 22 articles of food, made public today by the Department of Labor. Greatest decreases were in prices of sugar, 24 per cent, and potatoes, 15 per cent. The price of eggs increased 14 per cent. The average family expenditure for the 22 articles of food decreased in all of the 51 cities from which monthly prices were tabulated, except Houston, Texas, where there was an increase of approximately five-tenths of one per cent.

National business reviews predict an extensive program of government construction work for 1921.

One-seventh of the total peat lands in the United States are located in Michigan and experiments are being conducted at Chelsea in turning the product of the bogs into coke.

The Manufacturers' Association of Connecticut has gone on record as opposed to the closed shop and as favoring a system of pay which will recognize production and service.

The Bureau of Railway Economics announces that the revenues of Class One roads in September were \$29,343,000 less than the amount expected under the new rates.

A Philadelphia varnish dealer has been ordered to cease advertising his goods as "government supplies," "war supplies," and to stop referring to his place of business as "Government Supply House." The goods which he sells never belonged to the government.

The rubber trade of the British Isles has lodged a protest with the government against the increasing importation of American tires.

Dealers of power farming machinery report a steadily increasing number of farms on which tractors and trucks have completely displaced the horse.

During the rush season California farmers work their tractors 24 hours a day, operating three shifts of eight hours. Tractors have been used in California for more than 15 years.

Two and one-half million farmers are now using automobiles and are making substantial savings in time and money as a result. There is a car for every six persons in Iowa and Nebraska, although there are only 401 persons in those states whose income exceeds \$25,000.



## Transportation

Crop production of the lower Mississippi Valley has increased a billion dollars during the last ten years. Reclamation of low lands, departure from the one crop system and the adoption of farm tractors are held responsible for this great annual addition to the wealth of the nation.

Motor trucks moved 1,200,000,000 tons of freight in the United States last year. They were second only to the railroads as public carriers.

The Merchants' Association of New York City states the labor turnover in 1920 of skilled and semi-skilled workers will amount to 125 per cent. The turnover rate of unskilled labor is twice that.

The new cotton crop for Egypt has been estimated at 612,000,000 pounds.

The reports of the inspector of factories and workshops of England disclose the fact that since the reduction of the 48-hour week in most British industries there has been a considerable decline in production.

Baltimore garment workers claim that they have procured backing for a million dollar concern and that they expect to make women's clothing in their own shops and retail it through a chain of stores in the near future.

While results are somewhat imperfectly known, indications are that the 1920 cereal crop of the world will be six per cent greater than that of 1919.

It is estimated that the world's sugar crop for 1920-21 will be approximately 1,700,000 tons greater than the total production of 1919-20. It must be understood, in considering this estimate, that there are still two or three months of growing weather which can materially affect the crop. The indicated world production this season is more than 17,000,000 tons of cane and beet sugar.

An illustrated folder which includes a map of the principal highways of the state of Oregon has been issued by the Forest Service. The map should prove valuable to tourists. Address: District Forester, Portland, Oregon.

Woodlands on farms comprise more than one-half of all the forested lands. The present yearly farm income from woodlands is estimated at \$15,000,000.

The Department of Agriculture declares that exposure to weather frequently causes greater destruction to farm implements than actual use. It urges that all machinery and tools be stored before winter sets in.

Despite the fact that oats ranks next to corn and wheat in acreage and value in the United States, specialists of the Department of Agriculture report so little attention is given to this important grain that the crop is sometimes unprofitable.

New Mexico farmers who grow pinto beans declare that the next few years will see this product a regular article of food in every home in America. The farmers have standardized their product and, to a large extent, market it co-operatively.

The Department of Agriculture has prepared motion pictures for use in South America, showing American methods of breeding and handling live stock. Many of the department's bulletins are translated into Spanish for use in our neighboring republics.

The state of Maryland has appointed a director of farm products upon whom will fall the responsibility of maintaining and operating motor lines on state highways and from terminals, docks and depots for the collection of farm products.

A census of millionaires taken by the Income Tax Division of the Internal Revenue Bureau, although two years behind time, is interesting. It shows that there were 4,000 fewer millionaires in the United States in 1918 than in 1917. The total number of millionaires in 1918 was 20,944.